GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4032
ANSWERED ON:22.04.2008
IMMORAL ACTS PERPETRATED BY MEDIA
Subbarayan Shri K.

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has witnessed instances of cultural, moral and human rights violation perpetrated by Media;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to check such immoral acts perpetrated by Media?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI)

(a) to (c): Numerous references are received from public complaining against scenes and articles in Print and Electronic media from time to time.

In the Electronic media, there is no provision of pre-censorship of programme telecast by Private Channels. However, all the Private Channels are required to adhere to the Programme and Advertisement Code prescribed under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and Rules framed thereunder. This Ministry has constituted an Inter-Ministerial Committee for monitoring the violation of the Programme and Advertising Codes prescribed under the Act and Rules framed thereunder. Action is taken as per the provisions of the Cable Act whenever any specific violation is found. Government had constituted a committee to review the existing Programme and Advertisement Codes and the Committee has submitted its report to the Government which is available on the Ministry's website www.mib.nic.in.

As far as print media is concerned, the Government does not control and interfere with the contents published in the Print media. It has set up a specialized body for looking into the matters related to the Print media i.e. the Press Council of India (PCI). The PCI looks into the complaints with reference to the "Norms of Journalistic Conduct" framed by it and if satisfied that any violation has taken place takes action to warn, admonish or censure the publication / journalist concerned.